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December 14, 2010

Sharon Gillett, Chief
Wireline Competition Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WC Docket No. 02-60; Letter of Support to Extend Rural Health Care Pilot Program Deadline for Funding Commitments

Dear Ms. Gillett;

This letter is being submitted to show our support of multiple Rural Health Care Pilot Programs (RHCPP's) and the requests recently made to the Commission surrounding the extension of the pending June 30, 2011 RHCPP deadline. Specifically to date, the following four (4) projects, which have appeared in the ECFS system in the last 30 days: Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI), Indiana Telehealth Network, New England Telehealth Consortium and the Alaska eHealth Network.

At Oregon Health Network (OHN), we have considered the FCC a core strategic partner of our network from the very beginning. Therefore, we are not only very committed the Commission's success and primary intent/goal to build a national health care network through the success and lessons learned through the RHCPP, but to the entire RHCPP community as a whole as each navigate through very unique challenges surrounding the design, deployment and sustainability of their individual network models.

However, as we have all learned in this process, building state-wide and regional health networks is a new business and undertaking fraught with challenges; many challenges of which cannot be directly influenced by these new network projects. These health care networks are not only new to the federal government, but to the health care industry, state and regional communities as a whole as well. They require new strategies, profound flexibility and new partnerships which accumulatively require a change in behavior by many parties.

Regardless of the known challenges experienced by all of the RHCPP's to date, and new ones yet experienced, progress has and is being made by many of the RHCPP's initial 62 projects in support of the Commission's goals for the program. While some states and regions experience less or more community support based upon their unique cultures, geography and political climates, we strongly encourage the Commission to show flexibility and continued support for those that have and are showing progress through these extension requests.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kim Lamb', is written over a horizontal line.

Kim Lamb, Executive Director
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